(b) if so, the details of the new strategy worked out, if any?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Disinvistment of Air India was delayed because of factors, which have been stated in Parliament. After the withdrawal of Singapore Airlines, the Tata Group has stated that they are reviewing the situation. Government will consider the subsequent course of action after it hears from them.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Achievement of disinvestment

13. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the assessment of achievement, so far, made by Government regarding their ambitious disinvestment target of Rs. 12,000 crore in Budget 2001-2002; and

(b) the reasons for unsatisfactory result, so far?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRIARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) No precise estimate of achievement can be made at this stage. Success of disinvestment and the amount realized depend on a variety of factors. However, to accelerate the place of disinvestment, a time-schedule has been approved by the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment in respect of 13 public sector enterprises. Secretaries of the Administrative Ministries are to ensure that the time-schedule is adhered to. A progress report is submitted to the CCD at each meeting in regard to each of the 13 enterprises.

Monitoring of progress on disinvestment of PSUs

14. SHRI KUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to closely monitor on a monthly basis the progress made on disinvestment of 13 PSUs selected for the current financial year;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the administrative Ministries under whose jurisdiction these PSUs fall would sort out issues adhering to the timeframe; and

(c) the improvement made, so far, in regard to these PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir. The disinvestment process relates to 12 central public sector companies and Maruti Udyog Limited (MUL), which is a non-Government company;

(b) and (c) The process of disinvestment in Central PSUs is carried forward through Inter Ministerial consultations, particularly with the Administrative Ministries concerned with the public sector undertaking in question. The disinvestment process in two out of the 13 cases mentioned in (a) above, that is CMC Limited and HTL Limited, has been completed in October, 2001.

Disinvestment of profit making PSUs

†15. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to hand over profit making Public Sector Undertakings to Private Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are turning a blind eye towards the interests of labourers employed in these undertakings;

(d) if so, whether Government have formulated / are considering to formulate any scheme to provide better living conditions to these labourers;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Disinvestment in PSUs in the non-strategic areas, whether profit-making or loss-making, is being pursued as per the clear disinvestment policy of the Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Protection of interest of workers is an integral component of the disinvestment policy. This is ensured by making appropriate provisions in the Share Holders' Agreement. The provisions made in this regard in respect of BALCO are given in the Statement. (*See* below)

(f) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received to Hindi.